

Chapter 160

(Senate Bill 217)

AN ACT concerning

**Criminal Law – Sexual Offenses – Physical Resistance**

FOR the purpose of establishing that evidence of physical resistance by a certain victim is not required to prove that a certain sexual crime was committed; establishing that a certain provision of this Act may not be construed to affect the admissibility of evidence of actual physical resistance by a certain victim; ~~altering certain definitions;~~ and generally relating to sexual offenses.

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Criminal Law  
Section 3–301  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)~~

BY adding to  
Article – Criminal Law  
Section 3–319.1  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

**Article – Criminal Law**

~~§ 301.~~

~~(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.~~

~~(b) “Mentally incapacitated individual” means an individual who, because of the influence of a drug, narcotic, or intoxicating substance, or because of an act committed on the individual without the individual’s consent or awareness, is rendered substantially incapable of:~~

~~(1) appraising the nature of the individual’s conduct; or~~

~~(2) [resisting] COMMUNICATING ABOUT vaginal intercourse, a sexual act, or sexual contact.~~

~~(c) “Physically helpless individual” means an individual who:~~

~~(1) is unconscious; or~~

~~(2) (i) does not consent to vaginal intercourse, a sexual act, or sexual contact; and~~

~~(ii) is physically unable to [resist, or communicate unwillingness to submit to,] COMMUNICATE ABOUT vaginal intercourse, a sexual act, or sexual contact.~~

~~(d) (1) "Sexual act" means any of the following acts, regardless of whether semen is emitted:~~

~~(i) analingus;~~

~~(ii) eunnilingus;~~

~~(iii) fellatio;~~

~~(iv) anal intercourse, including penetration, however slight, of the anus; or~~

~~(v) an act:~~

~~1. in which an object or part of an individual's body penetrates, however slightly, into another individual's genital opening or anus; and~~

~~2. that can reasonably be construed to be for sexual arousal or gratification, or for the abuse of either party.~~

~~(2) "Sexual act" does not include:~~

~~(i) vaginal intercourse; or~~

~~(ii) an act in which an object or part of an individual's body penetrates an individual's genital opening or anus for an accepted medical purpose.~~

~~(e) (1) "Sexual contact", as used in §§ 3-307, 3-308, and 3-314 of this subtitle, means an intentional touching of the victim's or actor's genital, anal, or other intimate area for sexual arousal or gratification, or for the abuse of either party.~~

~~(2) "Sexual contact" does not include:~~

~~(i) a common expression of familial or friendly affection; or~~

~~(ii) an act for an accepted medical purpose.~~

~~(f) “Substantially cognitively impaired individual” means an individual who suffers from an intellectual disability or a mental disorder, either of which temporarily or permanently renders the individual substantially incapable of:~~

~~(1) appraising the nature of the individual’s conduct; OR~~

~~(2) [resisting vaginal intercourse, a sexual act, or sexual contact; or~~

~~(3) communicating unwillingness to submit to] COMMUNICATING ABOUT vaginal intercourse, a sexual act, or sexual contact.~~

~~(g) (1) “Vaginal intercourse” means genital copulation, whether or not semen is emitted.~~

~~(2) “Vaginal intercourse” includes penetration, however slight, of the vagina.~~

**3-319.1.**

**(A) EVIDENCE OF PHYSICAL RESISTANCE BY THE VICTIM IS NOT REQUIRED TO PROVE THAT A CRIME UNDER THIS SUBTITLE WAS COMMITTED.**

**(B) THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED TO AFFECT THE ADMISSIBILITY OF EVIDENCE OF ACTUAL PHYSICAL RESISTANCE BY THE VICTIM.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.

**Approved by the Governor, April 18, 2017.**